
Title of the workshop:

“Transit hub Latvia – Perspectives and challenges“

Objective of the workshop:

In the scope of the workshop there should be given general overview of the hinterland transport in the Baltic States (in particular Latvia) to provide general information regarding present state and planned development of road and railway infrastructure as well as port development in the Eastern part of the East – West transport corridor. In addition the factors affecting the traffic in the corridor such as Border crossing with the non – EU countries, insufficient frequency of ferry rotation as well as limited terminal capacity and not appropriated facilities especially in the Riga region should be pointed out.

Procedure:

The actual situation of the Latvian transport system as well as it's future perspectives, requirements and challenges should be described and illustrated by the representatives of different modes:

- **Road traffic** (*presented by an international forwarder/forwarding agent*)
- **Rail traffic** (*presented by national railway operator*)
- **Sea ports / short sea shipping** (*presented by Free Port of Ventspils or shipping company*)
- Others: **Special driving forces** such as Free economic zones and co-financing by the EU

John B. Richardson, Head of the Maritime Policy Task Force, EU Commission

Moderation *Dr Jens-Albert Oppel, CEO, ISL Baltic Consult GmbH*

The leading questions for all themes could be summarized as follows:

- a. What advantages do the East – West transport corridor via Latvia has?
- b. What do the East – West transport corridor via Latvia performs better than other transport corridors in the East – West direction?
- c. What do market players see as strengths for the East – West transport corridor via Latvia?
- d. What could be improved?
- e. What should be avoided?
- f. Which obstacles the traffic of the corridor face?
- g. What do market players see as weaknesses for the traffic of the corridor?
- h. What are the trends of development?